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Homemakers' chat

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U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

Monday, September 20, 1943

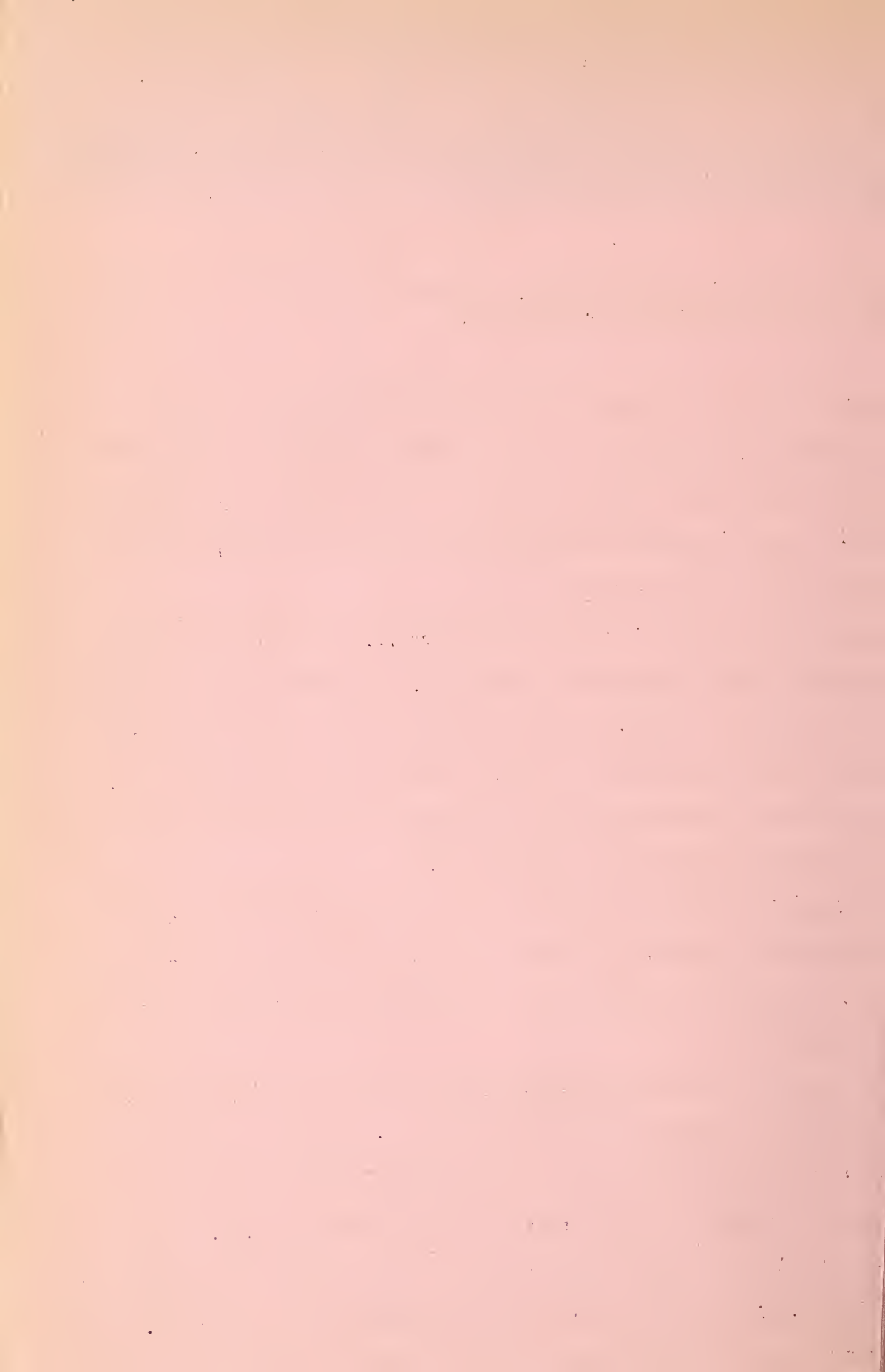
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SUBJECT: RATION RULES FOR HOME-CANNED FOODS. Information from food distribution officials of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Homemakers...you still have time to "put up" food for winter use. Those fall-maturing fruits and vegetables will taste plenty good when you serve them on your December dinner-table. When you can them, you're adding to our national supply of foods. You're preserving important fresh fruits and vegetables that otherwise might spoil and go to waste.

To encourage you to can your Victory Garden produce...or fruits and vegetables you buy when they're plentiful on the market...the ration rules for home-canned foods are generous. Naturally, you can put up in your own or a neighbor's kitchen all the fruits and vegetables you want...without giving up ration points. And you can serve these home-canned fruits and vegetables to the people who eat at your table, without their giving up ration points.

But there are rules about how much home-canned food you may give away, and some for selling home-canned food...maybe you wonder why there are any rules, when you did all the work of putting it up, and perhaps even grew the fresh stuff in your own garden.

Let's go back to the reason commercially-canned foods are rationed. Commercially-canned foods are rationed so that everyone in the country can get his fair share. There aren't going to be as many canned fruits and vegetables as we'd like ... one reason is, we can't spare the tin to make the cans. The Armed Forces need nearly a hundred million cases of our 1943-44 supply of canned fruits and vegetables. And our allies are also getting some of our production. If we civilians could buy as many cans of corn and carrots and applesauce as we



wanted...well, there just wouldn't be enough to go 'round.

To divide up the supply equally and fairly...the government gives each of us a little book with blue and red or brown stamps in them...and tells us we can buy so many points worth of processed foods with certain stamps...we all have the same share and no one feels cheated.

Then in spring and summer, some of us plant Victory Gardens. We harvest our own fruits and vegetables, and can them in our own or a neighbor's kitchen. Or perhaps we take advantage of a sudden supply of tomatoes or peaches on the market, and put them up for winter use. Our shelves well-stocked with jars of home-canned fruits and vegetables represent more than our ration book would allow us...but because we've put our own labor and energy into canning abundant food...in our own or a neighbor's kitchen...the government naturally doesn't ask us to give up points when we use the food. It is ours by right...and takes the place of the share of commercially-canned foods guaranteed us by the little book.

But when we give away or sell our home-canned food to other people, the picture is different. Maybe you have a grown daughter who lives away from you. Perhaps she lives in a city and hasn't the equipment for canning fruits and vegetables. Every year you've given her some of the home-grown produce you canned yourself. OPA realizes that many farm families have always liked to give away a few jars of this or a few jars of that to distant members of the family or to visitors or neighbors. But you can see... if we were to give away point-free all the canned foods we wanted, we would be giving someone else more than their fair share...when they had not contributed the raw food...the labor...the equipment, to give them a right to it.

OPA put a limit on how much we can give away point-free. We can give away up to fifty quarts of home-canned foods, for each member of our family, without taking ration points. Of course, we can give away as much more as we like...but we must get ration points for everything over the fifty-quart limit. That counts



for all gifts we make...whether to members of the family who live outside our homes, or to friends, or to school lunch programs.

We may also sell as many quarts of the food we canned ourselves as we want. But for everything we sell we must get ration points...even if we sell only one or two quarts. Here's why: If the people we sell to didn't turn over their ration points, they would have an unfair share of our country's food supply... they would have what we sold them, though they had no right to it point-free, as well as their share of commercially-canned food bought with ration stamps.

Maybe you wonder now what to do with the ration stamps you collect. Turn them in to your local war price and rationing board by the tenth of the following month. You need not send in a report, but you must keep a record of all the sales you made, including the name and address of the person who bought your food.

Remember these easy ration rules for home-canned foods...collect ration stamps for all gifts over the fifty-quart...collect ration stamps for every quart of home-canned food you sell. And one more thing...

Because the food we canned at home takes the place of food we would otherwise buy with ration stamps...we should destroy the ration stamps we don't need. We should use ration stamps only for kinds of food we need but don't have on our own shelves. And let's keep on canning!

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